# Sherif Gaber- A Case of Conscience and Repression

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**Brief Introduction:**
This file documents the case of human rights advocate Sherif Gaber. It aims to shed light on the violations he has endured and to stand in defense of freedom of expression and human rights.

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## International Publication Authorization

Geographic Scope:
This document is authorized for international publication and use in the context of documenting human rights violations related to freedom of expression and arbitrary detention.

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## Clarification of Independence

This document was prepared and issued independently by an individual concerned with human rights, particularly freedom of expression.
The subject of this document, Mr. Sherif Gaber, has had no involvement—direct or indirect—in the creation, review, approval, or dissemination of its contents.
All information presented here is based on publicly available data and personal research.

## Introduction:

This is not merely the story of a young man who expressed his opinion — it is the story of a society that allows no one to be different. Sherif Gaber never carried a weapon, never called for violence, and never committed a crime. All he did was think out loud. And from that moment on, his journey began — a journey of fear, imprisonment, restrictions, and deliberate neglect.

This document is not just a defense of freedom of expression and human rights; it is an attempt to save a human being who was left alone to face a society that denies him the right to simply be himself. Sherif's case is not an exception — it reflects the suffering of an entire generation of nonreligious youth in the Arab world, young people asking for nothing more than the right to think, to speak, and to live without fear.

## 1. Basic Facts About Sherif Gaber

Full Name: Sherif Gaber Abdelazim Bakr
Also known as: Sherif Gaber
Nationality: Egyptian
Date of Birth: February 10, 1993 (Currently 32 years old)
Place of Birth / Upbringing: Ismailia, Egypt
University Major: Studied Sociology at Suez Canal University
Occupation: Online activist, YouTuber, blogger
Field of Focus: Freedom of expression, criticism of religion, minority rights, LGBTQ+ rights
Years Active: Since 2013
Reason for Public Recognition: Known for his outspoken criticism of religion and advocacy for individual freedoms in Egypt

**Sources:**
– en.wikipedia.org – Sherif Gaber
– Exmuslims.org – 5 May, 2018
– youtube.com/@sherifgaber
– x.com/SherifGaber

**See full list of references at the end of this document.**

### Impact and Reach

Sherif Gaber launched his YouTube channel in 2016, and as of June 2025, it has gained over 475,000 subscribers — a number that continues to grow despite years of persecution and restriction.
His videos have reached millions across the Arab world, generating thousands of comments, discussions, and responses. Through his platform, Sherif has opened critical conversations on personal freedom, human rights, and the right to question dominant narratives — in societies where such conversations are often silenced.

**Sources:**
–YouTube.com/@SherifGaber

## 2. Timeline of Events

A chronological account of the major events and legal developments in Sherif Gaber's case:

October 27, 2013:
Sherif Gaber was arrested for the first time at around 3:00 AM due to his atheist activism both on campus and online. His home was raided, and his personal belongings were confiscated.

**Sources:**
– Middle East Eye – 30 May, 2015
– en.wikipedia.org – Sherif Gaber
– Daily News Egypt.com –17 February, 2015
– Cairo Scene.com 18 September, 2015

December 3, 2013:
He was released after paying a fine of EGP 7,500 — EGP 2,500 for the charge of blasphemy, and EGP 5,000 for “spreading distorted values.”

**Sources:**
– Daily News Egypt.com – 17 February, 2015
– Cairo Scene.com – 18 September, 2015
– en.wikipedia.org-Sherif Gaber

February 16, 2015:
Sherif Gaber was sentenced to one year in prison or a fine of EGP 1,000. Instead of serving the sentence, he went into hiding. Later, in 2016, he began creating videos and producing free content online.

**Sources:**
– en.wikipedia.org – Sherif Gaber
– scholars at risk.org – 16 February, 2015
– Daily News Egypt.com – 17 February, 2015

September 18, 2015:
In an interview with CairoScene titled "On The Run," Sherif revealed that he had been offered political asylum in Switzerland but chose to stay in Egypt and resist, rather than flee.

**Sources:**
– Cairo Scene.com – 18 September, 2015

March 31, 2018:
A few days before his next arrest, Sherif posted a tweet warning that his arrest was imminent. He expressed his determination to continue and wrote that he would **“I'll keep making videos when I get out.. i'll write the scripts in prison.”**

**Sources:**
– H24info – 7 May, 2018
– x.com/SherifGaber – 31 March, 2018. (formerly Twitter)
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/980189390482927617

May 5, 2018:
Sherif was arrested again and detained for approximately four days. Some observers linked his arrest to the wave of political crackdowns surrounding Egypt’s 2018 presidential election.

**Sources:**
– persecution.Exmuslims.org – 5 May, 2018

This period marked a turning point in Sherif Gaber's life and outlook.
Following a series of arrests, ongoing persecution, in absentia court rulings, and lawsuits filed against him by individuals and lawyers from within society, his situation became increasingly unstable.
He was forced to move from one place to another to escape threats, and his mental health began to deteriorate. Depression crept in, and he came to feel that staying in Egypt was becoming a danger to his life.
It was at this point that he began seriously considering leaving the country — not as a choice, but as a necessity.

October 1, 2018:
While attempting to leave the country, Sherif Gaber's passport was confiscated at the airport, and a travel ban was imposed on him due to two separate blasphemy cases filed against him.

**Sources:**
– ATHEIST REFUGEES.com – 30 January, 2019

January 29, 2019:
Sherif Gaber launched a crowdfunding campaign titled "Help Me Escape Egypt," aiming to raise $100,000 to acquire a second citizenship (such as from Dominica) in order to bypass the travel ban.
He managed to raise between $12,000 and $13,000 before the campaign was halted due to slow progress.

**Sources:**
– en.wikipedia.org – Sherif Gaber
– newarab.com – 30 January, 2019
– x.com/SherifGaber – 29 January, 2019
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1090249893820710913

September 16, 2019:
Various sources reported another court sentence of 3 years in prison. However, the total accumulated prison sentences against Sherif are estimated to be around 9 years so far.
He remains under a travel ban, without access to reliable legal representation, facing constant threats of imprisonment and abuse — and increasingly losing hope.

**Sources:**
– sherifgaber.com – About
– x.com/SherifGaber – 16 September 2019
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1173539179642478592

May 26, 2024:
A third prison sentence was issued against Sherif Gaber — 5 years for “criticizing Islam” and “promoting atheism.”

**Sources:**
– atheist republic.com – 1 June, 2024
– abc.com – 26 May, 2024
– Sherif Gaber.com – About

September 26, 2024:
An administrative court in Egypt issued a ruling to block Sherif Gaber’s YouTube channel, citing atheistic and blasphemous content.
This move marked a direct attempt to silence his online presence and restrict his ability to reach his audience.

**Sources:**
– EGYPT INDEPENDENT – 26 September, 2024

Total accumulated prison sentences so far: approximately 9 years.

**Sources:**
– Sherif Gaber.com – About
– atheist republic.com – 1 June, 2024

**See full list of references at the end of this document.**

## 3. Violations and Abuses

Sherif Gaber was not only subjected to court rulings — he endured a prolonged series of violations that targeted his freedom, psychological well-being, and personal dignity. These violations ranged from overt legal repression to more subtle and informal forms of persecution that were no less damaging.

Repeated Arrests

October 2013:
He was arrested for the first time at dawn, following a security raid on his home due to his intellectual and online activism.

May 2018:
Sherif was arrested again and detained for four days under unclear circumstances. Some linked the arrest to the wave of political crackdowns surrounding Egypt’s 2018 presidential elections.

## Repressive Court Rulings

As previously mentioned:

February 2015: Sherif Gaber was sentenced to one year in prison or a monetary fine.

October 2018: His passport was officially confiscated, and he was banned from leaving the country — a travel restriction that remains in effect to this day.

September 2019: He received an in absentia sentence of 3 years in prison.

May 2024: Another in absentia sentence was issued — 5 years in prison on charges of criticizing Islam and promoting atheism.

September 2024: A court ruling was issued to block his YouTube channel.

Total prison sentences in absentia to date: approximately 9 years.

## Digital Silencing and Complete Isolation

Following the court order to block his YouTube channel in September 2024 — and despite the fact that Sherif had already been gradually withdrawing from publishing direct religious criticism since his passport was confiscated in 2018 — this ruling pushed him to delete most of his previous content and to stop entirely any expression that could be considered controversial or critical.

The decision amounted to a form of digital enforced disappearance, stripping Sherif of his ability to express his stance, defend himself, or even communicate with his audience — as he increasingly felt targeted and unsafe.

Since the internet had been his only window to the outside world — and his sole source of income — this digital silencing resulted in a severe sense of isolation. It intensified his psychological vulnerability and crushed his remaining efforts to seek help or make his voice heard, especially given that he is banned from leaving the country.

## Content Shift Under Pressure

After a period of digital enforced disappearance, Sherif Gaber eventually returned to social media — but with noticeably different content.
He steered away from sensitive topics such as criticism of religion, and began posting material that appeared more cautious and seemingly balanced.

In his public statements, he attempted to justify this shift by saying that he is “not against religions,” and that he is simply “defending freedom of thought,” repeatedly emphasizing that he does not intend to offend anyone.

This significant change in tone and content does not appear to be a shift in belief, but rather a reflection of the intense pressure he was under — whether due to direct threats from the authorities, or a growing fear for his life and freedom in the face of threats from extremists.

What Sherif did was not a change in conviction — it was a survival strategy.
He was merely trying to breathe without being arrested, to speak without being abducted, to stay present in a shrinking space that barely allowed him to survive.

This was made clear in a post he shared on X.com (formerly Twitter) expressing his frustration over the decision to block his YouTube channel. He wrote:

**"Is it just me? What do I have to do for you to forget about me?
I know that criticizing religion makes you see me as the devil — but that’s a harsh judgment. That’s hatred. And hatred blinds people to fairness.
Remove religion from the equation, and none of those who hate me would have any reason to."**

**"I already told you: I’m done making videos about religion.
Thank God I’ve repented.
The prison sentences taught me that my way of thinking was wrong — and that society was right.”** September 26, 2024
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1839340154018001216

Sources supporting the section: ‘Content Shift Under Pressure’

**Note**: Most of the following videos are in Arabic. Please enable automatic English subtitles (EN auto-translate) on YouTube for accessibility.

I Won’t Talk About Religion Anymore – Sherif Gaber
https://youtu.be/FD26DvyPEUE?si=0lIjMwgti1OYltFA

Banned From Leaving – A Message from Sherif Gaber
https://youtu.be/3tpmGWoVPxs?si=VCg3tAWUNFeTMMiO

9-Years in Prison for Criticizing Islam
https://youtu.be/58_-Fs_kloM?si=qo8xyVUY8OZwHrZE

## Lack of Fair Legal Representation

Sherif Gaber has never had a trustworthy lawyer who genuinely defended him in any of his trials.
Many lawyers refused to represent him, fearing social backlash due to the sensitive nature of the charges — such as “criticizing Islam” and “promoting atheism.”
In a country where religious criticism is deeply taboo, taking on Sherif’s case could damage a lawyer’s reputation or expose them to public and religious hostility.

## Exploitation by Some Lawyers

Sherif also faced financial exploitation by certain lawyers who offered “help” in exchange for exaggerated fees, without providing any real legal service.

Video in which Sherif speaks about being exploited and blackmailed by lawyers

I Won’t Talk About Religion Anymore – Sherif Gaber
https://youtu.be/FD26DvyPEUE?si=0lIjMwgti1OYltFA

## Ongoing Threats to His Life

Sherif Gaber has received both direct and indirect death threats from extremists. On June 2, 2022, he shared a tweet documenting one such explicit threat, where a user wrote:

"You are a worthless person and if I ever see you, I will put a bullet in your head."

**Sherif responded:**

**"That's what I deal with almost every single day. And on a fairly 'normal' tweet. I'm trying my best not to post anything controversial until I manage to leave this country. Still, threats upon threats — and Twitter doesn't do anything except for making them delete their tweets."** June 2, 2022
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1532125451409362944

In this video, Sherif Gaber speaks openly about the death threats he has received:
9-Years in Prison for Criticizing Islam
https://youtu.be/58_-Fs_kloM?si=qo8xyVUY8OZwH

Post on X.com (formerly Twitter)

Sherif Gaber shared a post addressing the flood of hateful comments he receives daily from people wishing for his death:

**"Every day, I get tons of comments from people wishing me dead, delighting in how much I'm suffering right now.**
**Surprisingly, they don't really upset me as much as they make me feel sorry for them.**
**People who write that stuff are lacking awareness and understanding — even more than they lack empathy.**
**I feel sorry for them because they don't realize that the harm that happened to me could easily happen to them one day."**September 8, 2024
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1832865372506329444

**Sherif Gaber's psychological state** has noticeably deteriorated over the years. He has increasingly spoken out about his feelings of despair, insecurity, and depression — yet he continues to endure, holding on to a faint hope that things might eventually change for the better.

He expressed this openly in a tweet on X.com (formerly Twitter)

**"I regret making the videos. It wasn't worth it. For the first time in my life I feel like the end is near. And I feel like nothing in the world is worth fighting for. I'm alone, I'm lost, I'm depressed and the pain is too much to handle. I'm too weak to fight."** May 28, 2024
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1795237030504309103

Another Tweet

**"Mental state: zero. No vision for tomorrow. Morale is at rock bottom. Motivation to work is extremely low.**
**Still, I'm trying to hold on to discipline, keep my mind occupied, and I'll try to post a video next week."** September 12, 2024
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1834322888687853766

## Sources supporting the section: 'Sherif Gaber's psychological state'

"I Won't Talk About Religion Anymore – Sherif Gaber"
https://youtu.be/FD26DvyPEUE?si=0lIjMwgti1OYItFA

"Banned From Leaving – A Message from Sherif– Gaber"
https://youtu.be/3tpmGWoVPxs?si=VCg3tAWUNFeTMMiO

"9-Years in Prison for Criticizing Islam"
https://youtu.be/58_-Fs_kloM?si=qo8xyVUY8OZwHrZE

### Abuse During Detention

On multiple occasions, Sherif Gaber spoke about being subjected to abuse and torture while in detention.
However, he has been unable to go into detail out of fear of the consequences.

**Sources:**
– Middle East Eye – 30 May, 2015
– Cairo Scene.com – 18 September, 2015
“The Story of an Imprisoned Atheist”
https://youtu.be/u7e6ZYP94y8?si=K0MZmNHLVDcqc_q0

### Outcome of the Above

After his passport was confiscated in 2018 and a travel ban was imposed, Sherif Gaber found himself trapped inside the country — even though he was not officially imprisoned.
He realized that the only viable solution was to obtain a second nationality that would allow him to travel, even if the legal charges against him remained in place.
Holding a new citizenship and renouncing his Egyptian one could potentially offer diplomatic protection and grant him the right to move internationally without needing Egyptian approval.
This is what led him to launch a crowdfunding campaign in early 2019 to buy a second passport — clarifying that his goal was not to escape justice, but to find a safe and legal path to freedom.

## 4. The Reason Behind the "Help Me Escape Egypt" Campaign

As mentioned earlier, on January 29, 2019, Sherif Gaber launched an exceptional fundraising campaign titled “Help Me Escape Egypt” on both his YouTube channel and on X.com (formerly Twitter), clearly stating that its aim was to raise enough money to acquire a second nationality. The campaign came after years of legal persecution, multiple arrests, a travel ban, and the confiscation of his passport — turning Sherif into a prisoner without bars.

Sherif was not simply seeking asylum; he was pursuing a final legal solution to safely leave Egypt. He turned to what is known as "citizenship-by-investment" programs, which allow persecuted individuals to obtain citizenship in another country in exchange for a specific financial contribution, and then renounce their original citizenship. Sherif explained that this was the only viable option left, as all other doors had been closed. He emphasized that even with court rulings still active against him, having a new nationality might legally allow him to travel — especially if the new state applied diplomatic pressure on Egyptian authorities.

This campaign was not an attempt to evade responsibility, but rather a human cry for life and freedom. He launched it alone — with no legal protection, no institutional support, and under growing threats to his safety. His goal was simple: survival.

Archived video of the original campaign on Archive.org:
https://web.archive.org/web/20190130210020/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNXMBH5mIX0

This is the original video in which Sherif launched his campaign in 2019. It was later deleted from his channel, most likely due to pressure from security authorities. In the video, he mentioned that he might face additional charges for "defaming Egypt" merely for speaking about his situation. He also stated that he had to withhold some details out of fear of legal consequences.

Tweet on X.com (formerly Twitter) promoting the campaign
– x.com/SherifGaber January 29, 2019
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1090249893820710913

## 5. Quotes from Sherif Gaber

In a rare interview titled On The Run, Sherif Gaber shared the turning point in his journey toward atheism. He described it as a gradual process:

**“Gradually, it started when I watched a video of an Iranian woman being stoned to death for being in a relationship with a Christian. My life turned upside down. I started seeing how dangerous religions can be, and how they justify killing and torturing other humans, in whatever shape or form, in the name of God.”**

He also spoke candidly about how liberalism is often rejected in Egyptian society:

**“Real change requires both the people and the government to evolve together. But in a society like ours, people often reject liberal values and different lifestyles. Even if you placed a liberal government like Switzerland’s in Egypt, people would rise against it overnight. The government is a reflection of the people — and until society learns to accept different perspectives, real progress will remain out of reach.”**

He spoke as well about a pivotal moment in his life — when he was offered asylum in Switzerland:

**"I got sentenced and was about to leave after spending a month and a half preparing my paperwork. But at the last moment, I changed my mind."**

**"I felt like I was running away — and I'm not a coward. Even though the American lawyer following my case was urging me to leave, I didn't want to let her down. But more importantly, I didn't want to let myself down either."**

He added:

**"What happened to me became a battle for freedom of thought — and I chose to fight it from within, not from the outside. I want to express myself and help others do the same, here in our own country, where the impact is stronger. I don't see myself as an activist — I just want people to listen, and think without fear."**

**"I was offered asylum in Switzerland — but I refused."**

**Sources:**
— Sherif Gaber, On The Run, Cairo Scene – 18 September, 2015

**"I couldn't believe the security forces... Three armored vehicles and a military truck surrounded my house. I joked, 'There must be another Osama bin Laden living in the same building,'"** he said, laughing. **"I didn't know I was that dangerous."**

Sherif Gaber says he was tortured during detention. **"I don't want to get into the details… but the mildest thing they did to me,"** he said, recalling the moment they blindfolded him**, "was electric shocks and beating every part of my body. They wanted to know who was funding me to become an atheist and to criticize Islam."**

**"I tried to leave this country. I did my best to seek asylum. But Egypt feels more like a prison than a country. It belongs to thieves and corrupt politicians. There's no place for anyone else here."**

Discussing the possibility of remaining on the run for the next three years, he added:

**"I don't want to feel like I'm running away from something. I live to face things, not escape them."**

**Sources:**
— Sherif Gaber, Middle East Eye, 30 May 2015

Posts from Sherif Gaber's account on x.com (formerly Twitter)

**"The past few days have been the toughest in a long time. I found myself in an extremely difficult situation that I've yet to know how to resolve. But I'm still here. Still surviving. It's not over yet. Yes, I'm too weak to fight, but I'm also too resilient to give up."** June 4, 2024
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1798040498512474245

**"I miss you all. I miss the camera, the videos and that incredible feeling of making a difference. But stepping away has given me space to heal. And I need that. It's a process, and it takes time."** December 17, 2024
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1869056750177189934

## 6. Support from Organizations and Public Figures

Despite the intense pressure and legal harassment, Sherif Gaber's case has remained a focus of international solidarity and advocacy from various organizations:

**Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain (CEMB)** issued a statement of solidarity in October 2013 following his first arrest. In 2018, the organization launched several international petitions — including appeals to the European Parliament — calling for his immediate release.

**Sources:**
– ex-muslim.org.uk
"Free Sherif Gaber Now" – 29 October, 2013
– change.org – 6 May, 2018
– ex-muslim.org.uk
"Free Sherif Gaber" – 7 May, 2018

**Scholars at Risk:**
In February 2015, the organization issued a report concerning Suez Canal University, expressing concern over the persecution of one of its students for peaceful expressive activity. The report stated:

“Scholars at Risk is concerned about the detention and prosecution of a student in retaliation for nonviolent expressive activity…”

**Sources:**
– scholarsatrisk.org – 16 February, 2015

**British Humanist Association** (in collaboration with Arab Humanists):
In June 2016, the organization denounced before the United Nations the violations committed against Sherif and other defenders of free thought in Egypt.

**Sources:**
– humanists.uk – 21 June, 2016

**Humanists International (IHEU):**
In May 2018, the organization expressed concern after an attempt to arrest Sherif Gaber at Cairo Airport. It emphasized that blasphemy charges represent a violation of freedom of conscience and thought.

**Sources:**
– humanists.international – 4 May, 2018

**Center for Inquiry (CFI):**
On June 13, 2018, the organization issued an official statement calling for Sherif Gaber’s release. It described his persecution as a crime against freedom of expression and warned that the Egyptian authorities' actions pose a threat to progressive societies worldwide.

**Sources:**
– centerforinquiry.org – 13 June, 2018

**Mina Ahadi:**
Mina Ahadi actively participated in the January 2019 crowdfunding campaign and called on the German government to provide legal protection for Sherif Gaber and help resettle him in Europe.

**Sources:**
– hpd.de – 26 July, 2019
– Freiheit für Sherif Gaber! / youtube.com
https://youtu.be/WU_48nofIMM

**Atheist Republic:**
In April 2023, Atheist Republic published a powerful article titled "A Powerful Message from a Persecuted Atheist", highlighting Sherif Gaber's continued resistance despite the dangers he faces. The piece expressed solidarity with him as a free voice standing against oppression.

**Sources:**
– AtheistRepublic.com – 1 April, 2023

**Atheist Republic & Atheist Refugee Relief:**
In May 2024, both organizations launched a petition titled "Help Sherif Gaber Get Out of Prison" on Change.org.

**Change.org Platform** – Selected Petitions:

"Help Sherif Gaber Get Out of Prison"
443 signatures
https://www.change.org/p/help-sherif-gaber-get-out-of-prison

"Free Sherif Gaber"
4,143 signatures
https://www.change.org/p/egyptian-government-free-sharif-gaber

"Freedom for Sherif Gaber"
181 signatures
https://www.change.org/p/freedom-for-sherif-gaber

Petition calling for the return of his passport by **Ex-Muslim Atheist**
https://www.change.org/p/president-sissi-call-for-the-egyptian-gov-to-return-sherif-s-passpor

"Exert pressure on the European Parliament…"
5,950 signatures — signed by activists including **CEMB** and other secular organizations
https://www.change.org/p/european-parliament-exert-pressure-on-the-egyptian-government-to-free-sherif-gaber

## 7. The Failure of International Support to Change the Reality

Despite this international engagement, it remained sporadic and failed to evolve into sustained global pressure. This was due to the lack of continuous coordination, and Sherif Gaber's inability to directly follow up on the campaign because of the legal and security restrictions he was under. Additionally, the sensitivity of the issue in the Arab world, the difficulty of expressing public support within Egypt, and the absence of local institutions capable of showing solidarity — all contributed to the campaign losing momentum and failing to achieve its core goal: securing a safe exit for him from the country.

## 8. Current Situation – A Man Under Siege

Today, Sherif lives as a fugitive in his own country — banned from traveling, denied legal representation, and facing the constant threat of arrest or assassination.

He remains in complete isolation, with no protection, no stable income, and no ability to express himself freely after his voice was forcibly silenced on social media platforms in September 2024 — knowing that these platforms were his sole source of income.

With that decision, he was deprived not only of his freedom, but of the very means of survival.

He is a refugee within his homeland, living on the margins — caught between fear and despair, while the world remains silent.

## Psychological State as Reflected in the Entire File

In a video titled “The Story of an Imprisoned Atheist,” Sherif Gaber described the lasting psychological impact of his arrest and detention. He said he became terrified by ordinary sounds—like a knock at the door or footsteps on the stairs—because they remind him of the moment his home was raided and he was arrested.

In another video titled “9 Years in Prison for Criticizing Islam,” he spoke of suffering from recurring nightmares and admitted to experiencing depression due to the harsh conditions he has endured.

These symptoms resemble what is clinically known as **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).**

It is important to note that I am not a mental health professional. However, I am personally interested in the field and have read from various sources and books on psychology. What I write here should not be taken as a clinical diagnosis, but rather as an attempt to understand the severe psychological toll that Sherif himself has testified to in his public statements.

These experiences did not only affect his professional life—they shattered his psychological stability and left him in a state of constant tension. The idea of leaving Egypt is no longer just a fight for freedom; it has become a fight for mental survival in a reality that has become unbearable.

**Sources:**

The Story of an Imprisoned Atheist
https://youtu.be/u7e6ZYP94y8?si=K0MZmNHLVDcqc_q0

(This video was likely removed from Sherif’s channel due to security concerns. This is a re-uploaded version on another channel.)

9 Years in Prison for Criticizing Islam
https://youtu.be/58_-Fs_kloM?si=qo8xyVUY8OZwHrZE

Banned From Leaving – A Message from Sherif Gaber
https://youtu.be/3tpmGWoVPxs?si=VCg3tAWUNFeTMMiO

Additionally, all the tweets by Sherif Gaber on X.com (formerly Twitter) that have been included throughout this file are also considered as referenced sources.

**“I Chose to Live”** – A Moment of Vulnerability

At the end of January 2019, as his crowdfunding campaign struggled to gain momentum, Sherif Gaber shared a deeply emotional short video titled “I Chose to Live.” The video contained no spoken words—just a silent moment of Sherif crying, lasting approximately 45 seconds. It was featured in the campaign’s description on Change.org, which noted:

“There was a 45-second video called ‘I chose to live’… he was just crying.”

Despite its brevity, the clip captured a powerful psychological moment: a raw breakdown that ends with the quiet decision to choose life. It was a silent declaration that, despite the unbearable pressure and emotional pain, Sherif had chosen not to give up.

Notably, the video has since been deleted from Sherif’s YouTube channel—most likely due to security-related pressure. No copies have been found on the Internet Archive to date, likely due to its short duration and the limitations of automated archiving systems.
https://www.change.org/p/help-sherif-gaber-get-out-of-prison

**See full list of references at the end of this document.**

## 9. Reasons for Urgent Support

Why does Sherif Gaber's case deserve urgent support?

Because it’s not just the story of a young Egyptian who was imprisoned, silenced, and banned from travel.
It’s a mirror reflecting the suffering of everyone who is punished simply for daring to think out loud.

Sherif has fought for every individual’s right to freely express their beliefs and identity, in Egypt and across the Arab world.
And many of his followers and supporters still wish to see him safe and free, in a place that values his voice.

Supporting Sherif Gaber now is not a fleeting act of sympathy — it is a moral stance that must persist.

Every day he spends without safety or legal protection is a silent testimony that freedom of expression remains under threat.
And every time we go quiet, or grow tired, or believe the cause is over,
we give oppression another chance to spread.

“Sherif Gaber doesn’t need a temporary wave of sympathy…
He needs a wave that never ends — a wave that keeps asking the question:
What more can we do?”

So that the same mistakes are not repeated.
So that this campaign won’t be just a moment that fades away.

And so we can stand up to every obstacle and say:
“How do we keep going?”

Let us ask ourselves. Let us ask each other.
Maybe one of us carries the answer.
Maybe we are the answer.

## 10. Clarifications Regarding the Legal and Social Background of the Case

In the context of this campaign, it is essential to emphasize that what Sherif Gaber has been subjected to is not only a violation of international human rights standards, but also a clear breach of binding constitutional and legal provisions within the Egyptian state itself.

Below are the key texts that have been violated:

1. Article 65 of the Egyptian Constitution – Freedom of Thought and Opinion
"Freedom of thought and opinion is guaranteed. Every person has the right to express their opinion verbally, in writing, through imagery, or by any other means of expression and publication."

> Sherif did nothing more than exercise this right on public digital platforms, most notably YouTube.

2. Article 54 – Personal Freedom
"Personal freedom is a natural right, and it is inviolable. No one may be arrested, searched, imprisoned, or have their freedom restricted without a reasoned judicial order required by investigation."

> Sherif was arrested multiple times without clear judicial orders or fair trials.

3. Article 55 – Dignity and Rights During Detention
"Anyone who is arrested, detained, or whose freedom is restricted must be treated in a manner that preserves their dignity. They may not be tortured, intimidated, coerced, or harmed physically or psychologically."

> Sherif reported being subjected to humiliation and ill-treatment during detention, including psychological isolation and restrictions.

Violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
Egypt is a party to this covenant, which makes it legally binding under international law.

1. Article 18 – Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion
States that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion—including the freedom to adopt beliefs or opinions without interference.

2. Article 19 – Freedom of Opinion and Expression
Grants every person the right to freedom of expression, including the right to seek, receive, and impart information.

3. Article 9 – Right to Liberty and Security
States that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention, and that any deprivation of liberty must be lawful and based on clear grounds.

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I hold fully accountable all those who were involved in or covered up the violations committed against Sherif Gaber—whether security officers, government officials, or legal actors. My condemnation is not directed at the Egyptian state as an institution, but at those who abused their power and violated both the Egyptian constitution and international treaties. Supporting justice does not mean attacking nations—it means standing up to those who have tarnished their image through unjust actions.

## 11. A Campaign for Sherif: Messages That Must Be Said

Campaign Objectives:

1. To re-engage the international community and media with Sherif Gaber’s case, and to remind the world that he remains trapped in a cycle of state repression.

2. To initiate independent exploratory communication with international human rights organizations to assess potential avenues of solidarity around the case, while maintaining a strict ethical boundary that separates such efforts from Sherif Gaber’s personal responsibility, involvement, or risk.

3. To foster a network of solidarity and continuous engagement by encouraging interested individuals, advocates, and human rights actors—both independent and institutional—to connect, exchange insights, and contribute to sustained attention around the campaign.

4. To call for the lifting of the travel ban imposed on him and the annulment of the unjust court rulings issued against him.

5. To launch parallel solidarity initiatives through local organizations based outside of Egypt—whether in neighboring countries or among Arab diaspora communities—to circumvent domestic security restrictions and ensure a balanced narrative addressed to both Arab and Western audiences.

6. Ensuring that the needs and priorities of Sherif Gaber are represented accurately based on the available information, without exposing him to additional risks or pressure, and with full respect for his current limitations and security conditions.

7. To broaden the scope of the campaign to include advocacy for freedom of expression and human rights more generally, using Sherif's case as a compelling example of the systematic repression of free thought. This approach aims to strengthen institutional engagement and increase international media attention.

8. Sending a Clear Message of Solidarity

This campaign is not solely about seeking justice—it is also a message to Sherif Gaber himself:

You are not alone. We are still with you.

Through this message, we aim to remind Sherif that his voice has not been silenced, and that there are people—near and far—who still believe in his right to live freely and safely.

As part of this effort, the campaign calls for the reactivation and widespread use of the following hashtags:

#StillWithSherif  (New)
#SaveSherifGaber
#FreeSherifGaber
#SafeSherifGaber

These hashtags serve as symbols of continued solidarity, and as tools to amplify his story across platforms and communities worldwide.

**Note** on Arabic Hashtags
In Arabic, hashtags must use underscores ( _ ) instead of spaces to remain functional. For example, #الحرية_لشريف_جابر is valid, while #الحرية لشريف جابر will only activate the first word. This is due to platform limitations in handling Arabic script within hashtags

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https://persecution.exmuslims.org/cases/popular-islam-critical-youtuber-sherif-gaber-arrested-trying-to-escape-egypt

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Subscribers: 476K
Total views: 43 million
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## Part Two: Timeline of Events

Arrests and Sentences

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Sherif Gaber, Egyptian blogger, desperately needs help – **ATHEIST REFUGEES.com** – 30 January, 2019
https://atheist-refugees.com/en/misc/sherif-gaber-egyptian-blogger-desperately-needs-help/

16 September, 2019 – Tweet – **X.com** – Sherif Gaber
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1173539179642478592

Egipto sentencia a cinco años de cárcel a un youtuber acusado de  insultar el islam – **abc.com** – May 26, 2024
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Criticize Islam, Go To Jail: Egyptian Ex-Muslim Faces 9-Year Sentence!– **atheist republic.com** – 1 June, 2024
https://www.atheistrepublic.com/news/criticize-islam-go-jail-egyptian-ex-muslim-faces-9-year-sentence

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## Part Three: Violations and Abuses

Content Changed Under Pressure

26 September, 2024 – Tweet X.com – Sherif Gaber
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1839340154018001216

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**Extortion by Lawyers**

Video in which Sherif speaks about being exploited and blackmailed by lawyers:
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**Threats Against His Life**

2 June, 2022 – Tweet sharing a death threat from a user on x.com
https://x.com/SherifGaber/status/1532125451409362944
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Video where he mentions receiving death threats:
"9 Years in Prison for Criticizing Islam"
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## Part Four: The Reason Behind the "Help Me Escape Egypt" Campaign

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## Part Six: Support from Organizations and Public Figures

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## Part Seven: The Failure of International Support to Change the Reality

This section is an analytical conclusion based on the documented events, public reactions, and the current legal and social situation of Sherif Gaber. It draws from statements by international organizations, media coverage, and verified updates mentioned throughout this file

## Part Eight: Current Situation – A Man Under Siege

This section is supported by various sources referenced throughout the file, including videos, articles, and Sherif's own posts on the platform X.com (formerly known as Twitter).

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